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The background features a stylized map of the United States in a dark, textured color. Overlaid on the map are several black silhouettes of church spires. A white banner-like shape is cut across the map, containing the title text.
the
United States and its Churches

some

FACTS
and
TRENDS

Lauris B. Whitman
Glen W. Trimble



11/11/63

The United States and its Churches

Some Facts and Trends

by

Lauris B. Whitman

Glen W. Trimble

A Study Prepared for the
Division of Home Missions
by the
Bureau of Research and Survey

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES
OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.

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INTRODUCTION

The script for this brochure was used, with very slight modification, as a slide presentation at the Home Missions Assembly in St. Louis, Missouri, on December 10, 1962. By popular request of many delegates this slide presentation was developed into a filmstrip. Further requests led to the preparation of this printed text, using the same basic material and the same charts and graphs.

Glen Trimble, Director
Home Missions Research

"The United States and Its Churches - Some Facts and Trends"

1. INTRODUCTION

Perhaps the cautious modesty of the title should be emphasized.

Although the material may seem somewhat overwhelming, we are dealing only with a relatively few, selected factors among the many affecting national and church life.

2. CREDIT

Much of the information included in this analysis of national trends has been provided by the Bureau of Census of the Federal Government. Their cooperation in preparing this study is gratefully acknowledged.

3. 1960-63 POPULATION

Our nation never stands still.

The population explosion is now.

Some of you saw the Census Bureau's "time machine" at the last Triennial Assembly of the National Council in San Francisco, or you may have seen it at the Census Bureau office in Washington. This is the source for the second figure that you see as of January 1, 1963.

As of the first minute of 1963, there were over 8 1/2 million more Americans than there were on April 1, 1960.

In less than three years, population increase is more than twice the total population at the time of the first census in 1790.

4. TOTAL POPULATION 1790-1960

Here you can visualize the sweep of our population history.

We begin at the left with the 1790 census and move to the right by decades to 1960, from less than 4 million to nearly 180 million souls.

The white portion of the bars indicates increase over the previous decade.

The 28 million increase in the last decade alone was greater than the entire 1850 population.



Figure 19.—TOTAL POPULATION, DECENTENAL POPULATION INCREASE, AND PERCENT OF INCREASE 1790 TO 1960

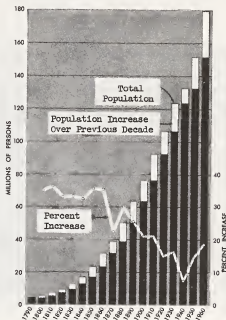
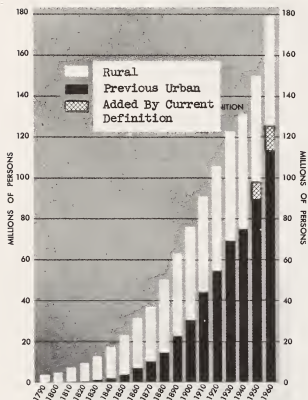


Figure 28.—URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION: 1790 TO 1960



The jagged white line running across the chart indicates percentage increase from decade to decade.

You will notice that even in these terms we are outstripping every decade since 1910.

At the current rate there will be six people in 1970 for every five in 1960.

5. URBAN AND RURAL 1790 TO 1960

History has changed the setting in which people live as well as their numbers.

Here the white of the bars represents rural residents and the black, urban.

The crossed lines for the last two decades indicate additional urban population as a result of redefinition of the dividing line.

We have changed from a totally rural nation in the eighteenth century to an overwhelming urban one in the twentieth century.

The urban proportion was 64% in 1950, 70% in 1960.

If you study the last four bars, you will see that the urban population now is greater than the entire population as recently as 1930.

Study of this chart also indicates that the rural total has been almost static for the past 70 years.

A fact equally startling, not shown on this chart, is that even in rural areas the proportion of non-farm people has steadily risen.

Actual farm population was 30% in 1920, less than 9% in 1960.

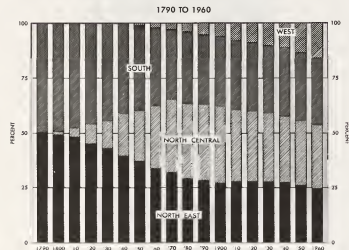
6. POPULATION BY REGIONS 1790 TO 1960

We have also a history of change of the regions of residence.

Moving again from 1790 on the left to 1960 on the right, we began in only two regions, the Northeast and the South.

The North Central Area (the Midwest) began to open at the beginning of the last century, grew rapidly up to 1870 to almost 1/3 of the national total and then, in proportion, held its own until

Figure 17.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES, BY REGIONS.



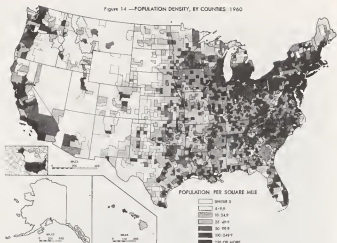
1920. For the past 40 years it has had a slowly decreasing share.

The West, almost invisible until 1850, has steadily increased its share so that we seem to be moving from an even division between two regions to an even division among four.

7. POPULATION DENSITY 1960

We turn now from some glimpses of our history to contemporary realities.

The map before you shows population density by county, ranging from the white of less than 5 persons per square mile to the full black of 250 or more persons in each square mile.



Essentially this is another way of visualizing the drastic urbanization of the present day United States.

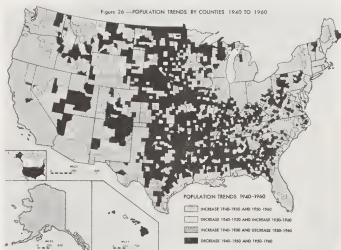
8. POPULATION TRENDS 1940 TO 1960

What is pictured here is the trend of population by counties in the last twenty years.

The lighter solid areas indicate consistent increases in both decades, the darker solid areas consistent decreases, and the white and dotted areas mixed trends.

The overall pattern seems to indicate inland population loss and coastline population increase.

This applies to the Gulf and the Great Lakes as well as the two ocean coastlines.



9. AMOUNT OF CHANGE 1950 — 1960

If the same range of facts is looked at by state and in terms of actual amount of change in the last ten years you get the picture before you.

The larger the circle the greater the charge.

Here only the national capital, West Virginia and Arkansas had actual loss, but the sizes of the circles tend to confirm the previous pattern of relative inland stability and sharp increase along the borders of large water bodies.

The California circle is more than twice that of runner-up Florida.

10. NUMBER OF COUNTIES GAIN AND LOSS

The last three maps have been leading up to a crucial fact which this bar chart stresses. The

—AMOUNT OF CHANGE IN TOTAL POPULATION, BY STATES: 1950 TO 1960

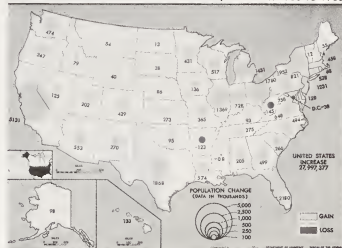
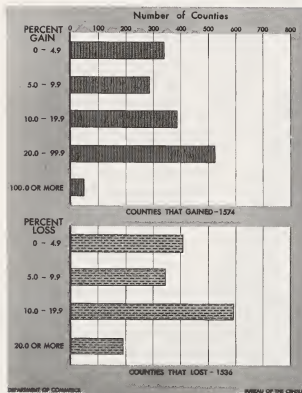
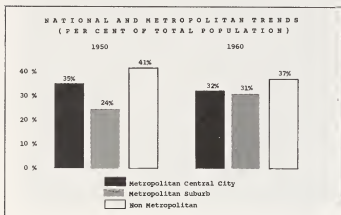


Figure 20.—NUMBER OF COUNTIES BY PERCENT OF CHANGE IN POPULATION: 1950 TO 1960



—STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO, 1960



U.S. population explosion is far from evenly distributed.

In almost half of our 3,110 counties there was a net loss not a net gain.

Nearly 600 counties lost between 10 and 20% of their people and 200 others even greater proportions.

The upper half of the chart shows a range of gain from any at all to 100% and more. The lower half, a range of loss up to over 20%.

The experts of the Census Bureau stress that for most of these counties loss is a long-term trend and very unlikely to be reversed.

They are outside the range of expanding metropolis. They are often areas of economic distress. Many of them will and perhaps ought to continue to decline.

Of all rural counties, 77% lost population.

We are as much in need of church strategy and program for areas of population loss and population stability as we are for strategies of response to rapid growth.

They are all facts of the nation's life.

11. METROPOLITAN AREAS

Another major phenomenon is metropolitan concentration. You see before you a mapping of the 215 standard metropolitan statistical areas of the United States.

These areas, made up of counties and combinations of counties, make up just 10.4 percent of the land area of the United States. But in 1940, these areas held 55% of the total population; in 1950, 59% and in 1960, 63%.

Put even more sharply, in both decades 85% of all population growth is credited to these metropolitan areas.

12. NATIONAL AND METROPOLITAN TRENDS 1950 - 1960

What you see in this charting is the relation of three components of today's America.

The black is the metropolitan central city; the gray, the metropolitan suburb and the white all the rest of America.

On the left is 1950; on the right, 1960.

What this tells us is that the suburb is catching up with the central city, probably by today has passed it.

We are also rapidly approaching the point where nearly equal thirds of the population are distributed in the metropolis, its suburbs, and the rest of America.

13. IN AND OUTSIDE CENTRAL CITIES

Within the metropolitan areas the growth was very uneven. The central cities actually grew less rapidly than the national average but the suburban rings accounted for nearly two-thirds of all national increase.

In each set of bars the black represents the central city, the white the surrounding ring.

The first set shows the metropolitan growth rate totals.

As we move down, the next represents the 3 million and up category where central-suburb contrast is greatest.

Then the 1 to 3 million range, 1/2 to 1 million, 1/4 to 1/2 million, 100,000 to 1/4 and, finally under 100,000.

Only in the smallest metropolitan areas does central city growth approach or surpass the suburbs.

14. URBAN REGIONS 1960

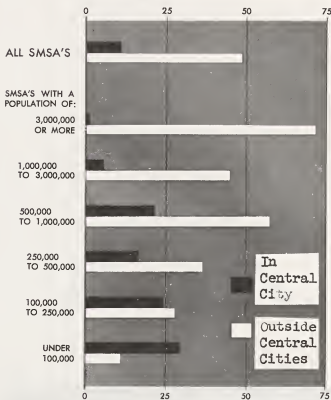
We have become metropolitan; we are moving into the era of "megalopolis" - of vast sprawling urban concentrations.

Dr. Jerome Pickard, Research Director of the Urban Land Institute, has prepared this map of 21 major "urban regions," chiefly on a basis of extreme population density. In his words they are "regions of concentrated urbanism."

The largest of these extends along the Atlantic Seaboard from Portland, Maine to Washington, D.C.

Together these regions occupy 6% of the land area and contain 55% of the people. Population density averages 545 per square mile.

Figure 37.—PERCENT OF CHANGE IN POPULATION IN AND OUTSIDE CENTRAL CITIES BY SIZE OF STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS: 1950 TO 1960



The other 94% of land has a population density of 29 persons per square mile.

Even more startling than the present fact is the prospect over the next 20 years.

Dr. Pickard has not attempted to map this and we have not ventured where he feared to tread. But he has prophesied that by 1980 there will be 25 urban regions. Their total population will jump from 98 to 170 million and make up over 2/3 of the nation on 10% of its land.

The Atlantic Seaboard megalopolis will spread up the Hudson Valley and join up with the Onondaga and Mohawk Valley regions.

But it will be rivaled by giant regions rimming the whole U.S. side of the Great Lakes and straddling most of California and most of Florida.

These will be the "big four."

This is the America of just the day after tomorrow.

15. AGE AND SEX 1960 AND 1950

We turn now to looking at our people in other terms than place of residence.

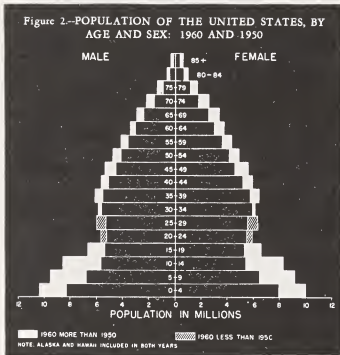
Here we have an age-sex pyramid for the 1950 and the 1960 population. Males make up the left half, females the right. The dark pyramid is 1950, the light 1960.

At the base can be seen large increases in the range from infancy to age 15. For the past several years, there have been about 4-1/4 million births each year. In 1960 there were 41% more 5 to 9 year olds and 50% more 10 to 14 year olds than in 1950.

About a quarter of the way up, we shift from net gain to net loss. There are less 20 to 29 year olds than there were in 1950. This is the continuing legacy of the depression '30s.

Above the thirty year line there is substantial population gain, proportionately, especially toward the top of the pyramid.

This last set of facts is less a reflection of long past birth rates than an evidence of increasing longevity, very largely due to the advances of medical science.



In actual numbers the 1950 population over 65 was 12.3 million. In 1960 it was 16.6 million and by 1970 will be at least 20 million.

Increase in these age brackets especially concentrates in certain areas. Florida and Arizona have jumped 100%. But the greatest numerical gains are in California, and, surprisingly, New York State.

16. AGE AND SEX 1957 AND 1980

The most recent charted projection of age and sex is based on 1957 rather than 1960 but it serves to glimpse the future in these terms.

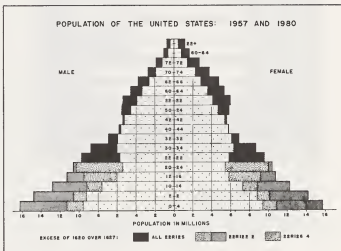
The central pyramid is 1957 population; the outer edges, changes by 1980.

The outer part of levels below age 25 are based on estimates then of people to be born and the two shadings represent different formulas of estimate, both actually quite conservative.

The black blocks on the higher levels represent people alive in 1957 and surviving in 1980.

Twenty years later the depression legacy has moved up to the 40-50 age level but all others, perhaps especially those above 50, show large population increases.

Overall we may expect not 1960's 180 million but about 250 million persons in just eighteen years from now.



17. NEGROES IN SOUTH 1860 - 1960

The largest minority among our peoples is the Negro. The next three charts point up some vital facts about his situation.

Here we telescope history. In 1860, just before the Civil War, 92% of all Negroes lived in the South. In 1950, just 68% lived there and in ten short years this proportion dropped to 60%.

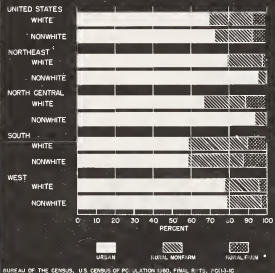
Undoubtedly this exodus (perhaps the most appropriate term) will continue and probably accelerate.



18. RESIDENCE BY COLOR 1960

What is shown here is the distribution of residence by color - white, the first of each bar pair and non-white (very largely Negro) the

PER CENT DISTRIBUTION BY TYPE OF RESIDENCE OF THE POPULATION, BY COLOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES & FOR REGIONS 1960



second of each bar pair - for the country as a whole at the top and for each of the major geographic regions.

The white of the bars represents urban residence; the diagonals, rural non-farm; and the cross hatched portions, rural farm.

What we are told is that all of us are more urban than not and that the non-white is more urban than the white in the country as a whole.

Even in the South nearly six of ten Negroes are urban and this almost exactly matches the southern white situation.

19. NON-WHITE PROPORTIONS

But while Negroes and other non-white have become predominantly urbanized they still are assigned an involuntary "place" in the metropolitan areas.

While the non-white share of total population is 11.4%, they are nearly 18% of the metropolitan central cities - the highest proportion in any geographic area type - and just 4.6% of the metropolitan suburbs - the lowest proportion in any.

The fact of this contrast, its implications and its resolution present the nation and its churches with a challenge of very high priority.

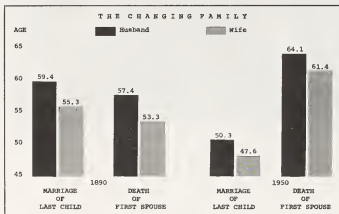
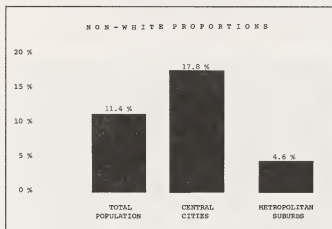
20. THE CHANGING FAMILY

The changing patterns of American family life are both fascinating to explore and very difficult to put into pictures. This is our only attempt.

On the left are two sets of bars picturing two aspects of family life in 1890. The first is the father and mother's age at the time of the marriage of the last child, the second is the ages of the parents at the time of the death of one of them.

The two sets on the right picture the same averages for 1960.

What is involved is a whole set of contrasts. The typical 1890 couple married later, had their children later, married them off later and died earlier. The net result was a typical expectancy that one parent would have died before the last child married.



The 1960 contrast is that typically both parents can expect 14 years of life together after the last child is gone.

Dr. Paul Glick of the Census Bureau has called this the life stage of the "empty nest," a strikingly new aspect of typical family life.

These same 14 years are frequently ones of peak earnings, of matured leadership qualities, and, often, of flexibility in the use of time.

This is a new and largely unrecognized and under-utilized asset in the life of the nation and of our churches.

21. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP 1850 - 1960

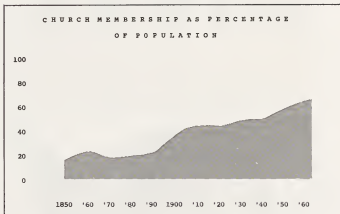
Now, against this background of national trends, we turn to a review of some outstanding facts about our churches.

First, again, a visualization of the historic trend.

Throughout our history, the proportion of church members has risen.

This mountain range traces the pattern from 1850 to 1960. In that span, we have moved from 16% to 63.60 church membership.

The last percentage represents 114-1/2 million church members reported by our Yearbook of American Churches.

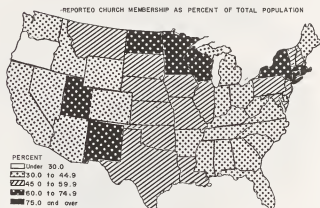


22. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP BY STATES

From our Church Distribution Study based on 1952 reports we can glimpse the pattern by states.

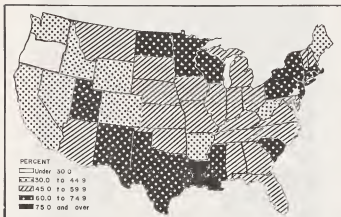
This first map of a series shows the percent of church members in each state.

The range is from the solid black of Rhode Island's over 75% through the dotted black 60 to 75% - the diagonals (chiefly in the middle west) of 40 to 60%, then the many states with 30 to 45% membership shown as white with black dots and, finally, the white of Oregon with under 30%.



Some of you may have already seen that this pattern is partly a reflection of the large bodies that count all persons, not just adults, as members, especially the Roman Catholics and

REPORTED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AS PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION LESS NEGROES



the Lutherans, and partly a reflection of the fact that the large Negro denominations did not report their membership.

The next map adjusts for the last fact by setting the data against white population alone.

23. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP LESS NEGRO

This partly corrected picture has stepped up the proportions in all the southern states and up through Ohio and Indiana to Michigan.

We are getting nearer to a true picture.

24. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP ADJUSTED

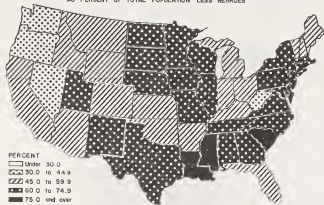
Here we continue to make our comparison with the white population and also make a 27% adjustment for those Protestant bodies that do not count children as members.

This map is probably the nearest to a true reflection of the churching situation in the states.

To the extent that a high church membership is a measure, the strongholds are southern New England and the Middle Atlantic States, almost the entire South and the West North Central States, plus Illinois and Wisconsin - almost all of these have a 60% or better proportion.

The Kentucky to Michigan tier and almost all the West fall below this proportion with West Virginia, Washington, Oregon and Nevada under 45%.

REPORTED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP OF MAJOR FAITHS WITH ADJUSTMENT OF CERTAIN PROTESTANT FIGURES FOR PURPOSES OF COMPARABILITY AS PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION LESS NEGROES



25. NUMBER OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES

This map analyzes the number of Protestant churches for every 2,000 persons not including Negroes in each of the states.

The white dotted portions represent fewer than one such church for 2,000 persons.

The cross hatching represents more than one but less than three churches, the dots on black three but less than five, the solid five or more churches for every 2,000 white persons.

It is very difficult to relate this factual picture with any of the numerical formulas for "adequate churching."

NUMBER OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES REPORTED PER 2,000 TOTAL POPULATION LESS NEGROES



What does seem to be indicated is quite distinct regional patterns which bring into sharp question the applicability of any single national numerical standard.

26. PROTESTANT AND ROMAN CATHOLIC 1926 - 1960

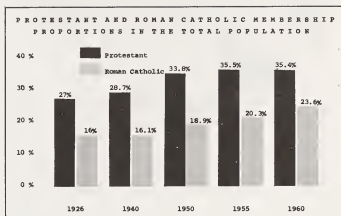
The relative strength of Protestantism and Roman Catholicism in relation to the total population from 1926 to 1960 is traced in this chart.

In 1926 the solid Protestant bar represents 27% of the population.

This proportion rises steadily through 1940, 1950 and 1955 and then shows a one-tenth of one percent drop in 1960 to 35.4 percent.

The Roman Catholic gray bar begins at 16 percent and rises steadily to 23.6 percent.

Over the 34 year span both groups have gained almost equally in relation to rising population and the span between them (11% in 1926; just under 12% in 1960) has remained nearly constant.



27. R.C. AND PROTESTANT BY STATE

Here the relations of Roman Catholic and Protestant membership strength are pictured by states.

The dots on black are states in which Protestants are more than 1/2 the population less Negroes.

The greater part of the map is covered by dots on white which reflect more Protestants than Catholics but less than 1/2 the total population.

Rhode Island is the one state where Roman Catholics are both a majority and more than 1/2 the population.

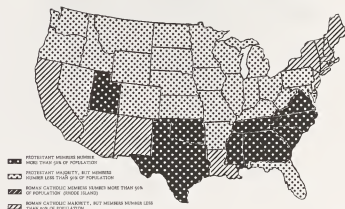
The diagonals on which are states where there are more Catholics than Protestants but less than 1/2 the population.

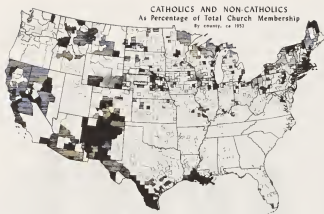
The scattering from New England to Louisiana to California is interesting.

28. CATHOLICS AND NON-CATHOLICS BY COUNTY

This map looks at Catholics and non-Catholics by county and from a little different perspective.

ROMAN CATHOLIC AND ADJUSTED* PROTESTANT MEMBERS RELATED TO POPULATION LESS NEGROES





The percentages are not of total population but of total church membership.

The solid black represents Catholic majorities, some of them urban concentrations, others French and Spanish ethnic dominance.

The next lighter shading represents at least equal Protestant membership and all the rest Protestant majorities up to the white areas where Protestants are at least 99% of total members.

Behind this map and a series which follow lies a story worth telling.

When the Church Distribution Study - officially titled "Churches and Church Membership in the United States" - was published it was decided to publish all the basic county data so that anyone might work with it as he saw fit.

This is one of many uses which have come back to us as pleasant surprises.

Dr. Wilbur Zelinsky of Southern Illinois University worked out 26 maps and a major article on "An Approach to the Religious Geography of the United States" based entirely on the data of our study.

The article and maps appeared in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers in June, 1961.

We will now look at more of his maps.

29. METHODISTS AND OTHERS

Here Methodists are compared to all other church bodies.

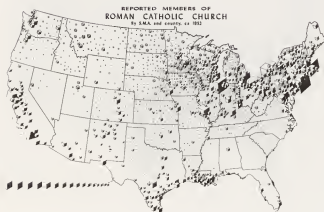
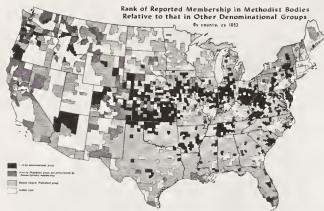
The black counties are those in which Methodists are the largest denominational group.

The cross hatched counties are those in which they are the largest Protestant group but outnumbered by Roman Catholics.

The vertical lines indicate that Methodists are the second largest Protestant group and only in the white areas do they hold lower rank.

30. ROMAN CATHOLIC MEMBERS

Now we begin to look at the size and distribution of the individual denominations.



At the bottom of page 12 is the Roman Catholic Church, massively urban but with a genuinely national distribution.

The block on the left in the key represents 400,000 members.

31. JEWISH CONGREGATIONS

Here are the Jewish congregations by standard metropolitan area and by county.

They are located almost entirely in the major metropolitan areas with only a small scattering elsewhere.

32. BAPTIST BODIES

Here are the Baptists.

Dr. Zelinsky combined the denominational "families" so this is Southern and American and all other Baptists that reported.

Obviously, the Southern variety predominates with substantially lesser strength in the North and West.

33. METHODIST BODIES

As the earlier map indicated, the Methodists are the most broadly national Protestant family.

In membership terms they are strong in almost every sections, closely reflecting the national pattern of varying population density.

34. LUTHERAN BODIES

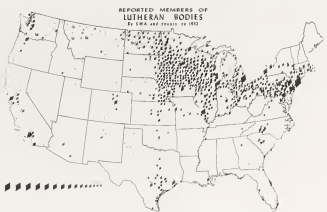
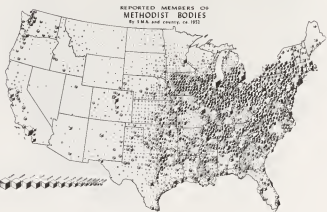
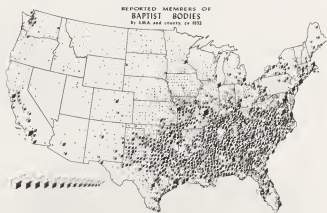
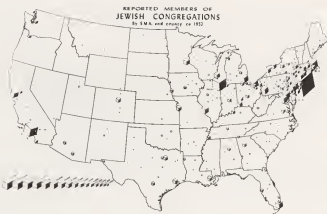
These are the Lutherans, again all of them united -- at last!

To a considerable extent the distribution seems to reflect the history and pattern of central and northern European migration in American history.

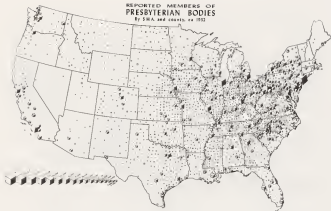
There is a strong concentration in the West North Central States.

If the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, were shown alone this fact would be even more striking.

If you will recall some of the earlier maps, this is also the area of substantial population decline -- a word to the wise!



REPORTED MEMBERS OF
PRESBYTERIAN BODIES
By SRA and census, ca 1952



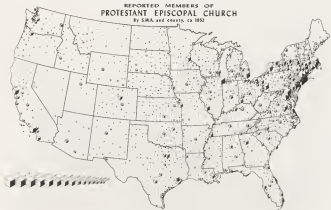
35. PRESBYTERIAN BODIES

These are the Presbyterians.

Again it is a family picture including U.S. and U.S.A. and other Presbyterians.

Together they represent a broadly national coverage not perceptibly stronger or weaker in any particular area.

REPORTED MEMBERS OF
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
By SRA and census, ca 1952

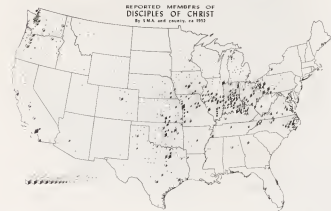


36. PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This is the Protestant Episcopal Church - a single denomination, not a family.

Here again there is a pattern of national membership but with a somewhat heavier concentration in the metropolitan areas, a little lighter representation outside of them.

REPORTED MEMBERS OF
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
By SRA and census, ca 1952



37. DISCIPLES

Here are the Christian Churches, the Disciples of Christ.

Once more history seems to peep through.

There seems to be a strong nucleus centering in Indiana and radiating out from there.

The Disciples, in contrast to most denominations, seems to have a headquarters site that has a geographic consistency with the membership pattern.

REPORTED MEMBERS OF
CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
By SRA and census, ca 1952



38. CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Now we are looking at the Congregational Christian Churches.

There is continuing strong evidence of the New England origin and lesser reflections of the westward trek and the southern missionary outreach.

There are also areas of almost total absence such as the entire states of West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas and Nevada.

39. EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

At the top of the following page is the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1952.

An overlay of this and the Congregational Christian map we have just seen would indi-

cate that the United Church of Christ merger, while adding substantial strength in Pennsylvania, has not substantially changed the regional character of both the merging bodies and of their combination.

This is the last of the Zelinsky maps selected, but only a part of those he made.

Their usefulness for new perspectives on our work should be abundantly clear.

40. RELIGIONS REPORTED 1957

Another source of knowledge about our churches is a single national sample survey taken by the Bureau of the Census in 1957.

Part of the findings were published in one bulletin and then this service was discontinued because of alleged church-state issues.

The pie chart reproduced here represents not membership but religious affiliation reported by the national sample.

On this basis 1/4 reported themselves Roman Catholic, about 2% more than the membership record.

This is the gray sector of the picture.

The combined Protestant self-ascription - the black section - is two-thirds of the total.

This is nearly twice the combined membership claims of the denominations.

Let me stress this by restatement. Two persons claim to be Protestant for every one on the membership rolls.

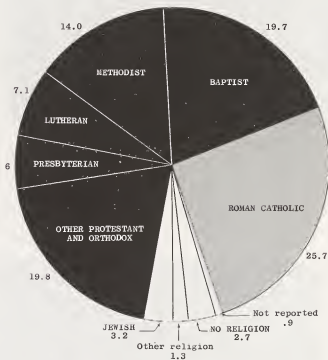
In part this reflects the restriction of membership to adults in many Protestant bodies, in part more exacting definitions of membership, and perhaps most largely the historical and majority status of Protestantism in the nation and the still pervasive sense that one ought to be religious and if one is not Catholic or Jewish he must be Protestant.

The Protestant cuts of the pie, each a proportion of the total population, are: Baptist 20%, Methodist 14%, Lutheran 7%, Presbyterian 5-1/2% and other Protestant and Orthodox 20%.

The Jewish sector is 3%.



RELIGION REPORTED BY PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER: CIVILIAN POPULATION, MARCH 1957



All other religions 1%, and those bold enough to disclaim any religion 2.7%.

On the last point this national sample is supported by countless local religious censuses.

The proportion who do not ascribe some religion to themselves is always very small, almost never over 6% and usually around 2 or 3%.

In this sense of self-description there is no great body of the "unchurched" ripe for the evangelistic harvest.

41. TWO WORLDS TABLE

Now we turn to perhaps the most significant dividing point in contemporary American life.

This is not the urban, town-and-country traditional cutting of church work which tends to polarize at the extremes of the inner city and the open country and leave most Protestant churches without special service.

It is rather the two worlds of metropolitan and non-metropolitan life.

Together they make up the entire nation but between them are sharp differences in almost every respect, and, certainly, in the patterns of church life.

The table before you lists some of these contrasts.

About 10% of the land area houses a majority - and a growing majority - of the people.

In Protestant terms little over a quarter of our churches serve nearly half our people while outside the metropolitan areas 71% of our churches serve just 54% of our people.

The Catholics, in contrast, divide their churches evenly between the two worlds.

42. DENOMINATIONAL VARIATIONS

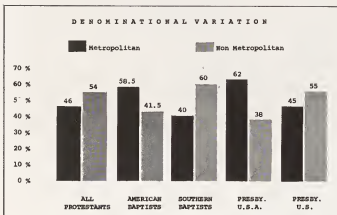
Protestant totals conceal strong denominational differences and even common family labels tell nothing of the relation of the denominations to these two worlds.

Here the dark represents the metropolitan world and gray the non-metropolitan.

**TWO WORLDS OF CHURCH LIFE
IN THE UNITED STATES**

TABLE I

	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan
Number of counties	277	2,797
Population (millions)	85-1/2	65
Percent of population	57	43
Percent members - all faiths	61	39
Percent of all Protestants	46	54
Percent of all Roman Catholics	75	25
Percent of all Jews	98	2
Percent of Protestant Churches	29	71
Percent of Roman Catholic Churches	50	50



As we have seen and the first set of bars pictures, 46% of all Protestants live in metropolitan areas, 54% do not.

For American Baptists the situation is reversed, 58-1/2% are metropolitan; but Southern Baptists are more non-metropolitan than the Protestant average.

Presbyterian U.S.A. (this is 1952 data before the merger) are 62% metropolitan, the highest ratio in this group, but Presbyterian U.S. distribution is very close to the national Protestant pattern.

43. AVERAGE MEMBERSHIP PROTESTANT

One very significant difference of these two worlds is in average church membership.

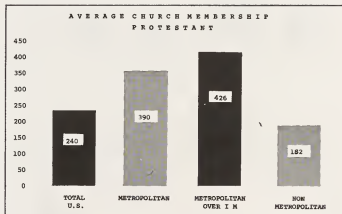
In 1952, the national Protestant average was 240 members for each congregation.

But around this figure the range of variation is very wide.

All metropolitan churches averaged 390 members.

The churches in metropolitan areas of over a million averaged 426, and the 9/10 of the land area which is non-metropolitan had average Protestant churches of 182.

Remember that an average means that approximately half had even less than 182 members.



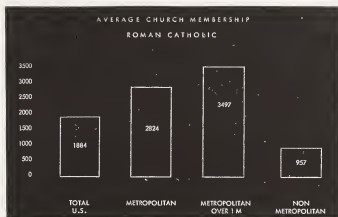
44. AVERAGE MEMBERSHIP ROMAN CATHOLIC

Here is the Roman Catholic profile in the same terms.

What is most significant is that the two worlds exert the same influence on both wings of Christianity.

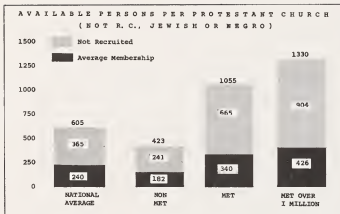
While the average Catholic parish is much larger, 1,884 persons, in metropolis it rises to 2,824, in megalopolis to 3,497, and outside metropolis the average falls to 957.

The church reflects its worlds.



45. AVAILABLE PERSONS

As surrounding population density increases,



the churches tend to be larger but, also, the number of unrecruited potential members rises.

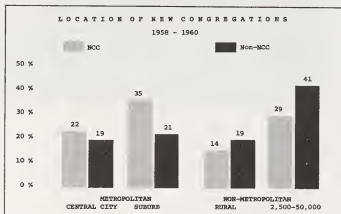
Here the average Protestant church sizes are set against the average numbers of most available persons in terms of current practice.

Jews, Roman Catholics, and Negroes have been subtracted.

The average per church in this kind of availability is 365.

But for the non-metropolitan churches it is just 241, for the metropolitan churches 665 and for those in the million plus centers 904.

In these terms the larger churches in the denser centers are less effective than their town and country cousins.



46. LOCATION OF NEW CHURCHES 1958 - 1960

In the next few charts we will look at some findings from a recently completed study of church openings and closings by 45 Protestant bodies in the years 1958 through 1960.

This chart shows in percentage terms the distribution of location of new churches.

The black bar is the National Council Churches reporting and the gray bar the non-National Council communions.

The first set of bars represents the metropolitan central city where both groups placed about one in five of their new churches.

The second set is perhaps the most surprising finding. It represents the booming metropolitan suburbs.

Only one in three of the NCC new churches and one in five of the non-NCC's were placed there.

Since we have seen that two-thirds of all population growth centered in the suburbs, this, rather than the expected overemphasis, may actually be underemphasis.

The third set of bars indicates that even in rural America we are still building a significant proportion of our churches.

The fourth set indicates that we are stressing the non-metropolitan large towns and cities from 2,500 to 50,000 population as much as we are the metropolitan suburbs.

47. LOCATION OF CLOSED CHURCHES

Here in the same pattern we see the location of the churches we closed between 1950 and 1960. This finding is probably closer to general impressions.

The greatest single group is rural, the third set of bars. There the NCC churches concentrated 61% of all closings and the non-NCC churches 47%.

Next comes the non-metropolitan larger communities and then, almost equally, the metropolitan central city and suburb.

A footnote is the fact that no community situation guarantees success. There is nowhere where we "cannot lose."

48. NEW CHURCHES ANNUALLY

Our actual finding was that the 45 reporting denominations, representing nearly half of all Protestant congregations began new churches at an annual rate of 1,373.

A straight mathematical projection, taking into account the differential rates of church openings by the NCC and non-NCC groups, would set a total Protestant rate of 3,266 new churches each year.

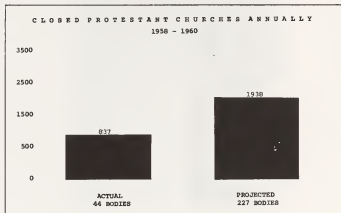
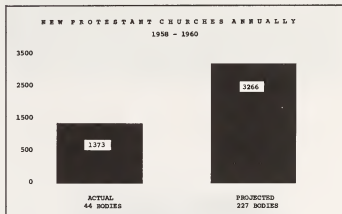
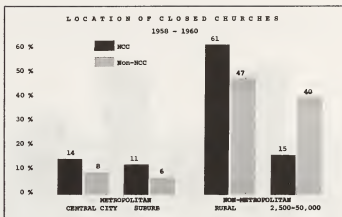
The study does not provide evidence either for or against the "representativeness" of the reporting churches.

The second block is therefore only an "if" projection.

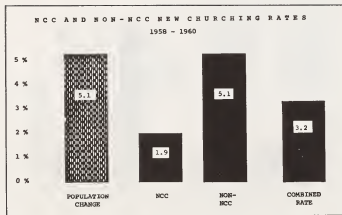
49. CLOSED CHURCHES ANNUALLY

On the same basis this is the picture of actually reported and projected church closings. The actual number reported was 837 each year. The projection is 1,938 annual closings.

The ebb and flow of our national population, of which we have taken fleeting glimpses, of course demands both new churches and church terminations.



Whether all or even any of either our new or our closed churches were in "the right place at the right time" cannot be proved in the restricted focus of this particular study.



50. NEW CHURCH RATES

One finding is especially interesting and a real stimulus to further quest for its causes and consequences.

Here you see first the estimated population increase rate of 5.1% from 1958 to 1960.

Second, is the rate of new churching by the NCC group, just 1.9%.

Third, the non-NCC group rate exactly matching the first column at 5.1%.

The last bar represents the combined new church rate for all reporting churches of 3.2.

The evidence is insufficient to determine whether or not churches should be built at a rate to match population rise, but there are historical indications that this has tended to be traditional church practice.

If so, contemporary practice of the National Council group represents a sharp break with the past not shared by the non-NCC group.

Nevertheless, the combined net result seems to be a compromise moving toward establishing fewer churches designed, congregation by congregation, to serve more people.

51. POVERTY IN THE U.S.

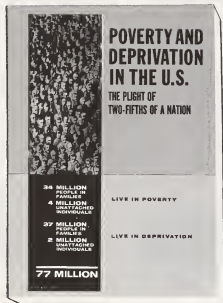
The church has a mission to and for these United States.

It must be pursued in the framework of these and many other facts and trends.

It is a mission constantly concerned with human need.

One index of the needs of persons, one key that opens many doors, is the prevalence of poverty in the midst of the unparalleled affluence of our society.

What you see here is the cover of the 1962 report of the Conference on Economic Progress



on Poverty and Deprivation in the United States.

77 million persons, 2/5 of the nation, live in poverty - total family income less than \$4,000; or deprivation - total family income less than \$6,000.

An analysis of the situations of the 38 million living in poverty, the neediest category, may help to underline at least some of the targets of our mission.

52. WHO LIVES IN POVERTY

Of these 77 million: 57% had family heads with less than eight years of education. 43% lived in the South. 30% were in families with a female head. 28% had an unemployed family head. 23% had family heads over 65. 22% were non-white. 17% lived on farms.

A recheck of this list will show that all seven facts may apply to a single family head.

Whether or not all seven strikes are combined these are the contributors to poverty.

Do these statistics give you the impression that poverty is primarily in the South, among the unemployed, among the aged? That it is essentially a problem among non-whites and farm people? Proportionately the problem is most acute in these categories; but in totals the reverse is true. Let us review the figures again:

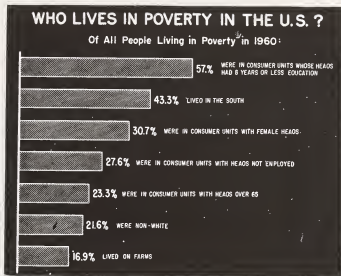
43% live in the South; then 57%, or a majority, live in the rest of the country.

28% had an unemployed family head; then for 72%, or 3/4 of the poverty families, the head of the family was employed.

23% had family heads over 65; then 77%, or 3/4 of the heads of families, were under 65.

22% were non-white; then 78%, or more than 3/4, were white!

17% lived on farms; then 83%, or 5/6, are non-farm!



The cross spans the universe

but our response is
on earth and here and now.

Inasmuch as we gather these people,
find our commitment to their needs,
deploy for their service,
we will fulfill our mission —
we will have done it unto Him.



